Pureline Poultry Breeding Programme in U.P.

2727. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pureline poultry breeding programme has been started in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the achievements made under this scheme so far; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the targets set under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Pureline Breeding Programme has been taken up in the Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar in Uttar Pradesh by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(b) A commercial layer stock under the trade name ILI-80 and its parents, two commercial broiler stocks under the trade name B-77 and IBI-91 and their parents and a brown egger under trade name Carigold have been developed and released for commercial exploitation.

(c) Initial targets fixed have been achieved.

Districts brought under Wasteland Development Programmes in West Bengal

2728. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) which districts in West Bengal have been brought under PANDHARA BIKASH PARIYOJANA and Wasteland Development Programme; and

(b) what are the salient features of these projects with regard to Central Government assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The districts covered under the National Watershed Development Projects for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) are Bakkura, Midnapore (West), Coochbehar, Birbhum, South 24 Parganas, Midnapore (East), Burdwan, Uttar Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Darjeeling, Malda, North 24 Parganas, Purulia and Dakshin Dinajpur, and for the wasteland development the districts Midnapore, Purulia & Bankura are covered under the Integrated Wasteland Development Project Scheme (IWDP).

(b) The salient features of NWDPRA are as follows:

All the community development blocks in the State with less than 30% area under assured means of irrigation are eligible for inclusion under the project. During 8th Plan period one micro-watershed each in the eligible blocks ranging from 500 to 5000 ha. has been taken up. The cost ceiling under the project is Rs. 3500 per ha. for watersheds in plain areas with less than 8% slope and Rs. 5000 per ha. in areas having more than 8% slope. Each family in the identified watersheds can be provided with an assistance up to Rs. 5000. Flow of funds from State level down to wastershed has to be through a single window, i.e., the State Agriculture Department. All project activities have to be implemented through beneficiaries. The Central Government is providing 100% assistance to the State Government comprising 75% grant-in-aid and 25% loan.

The salient features of IWDP are: development of non-forest wastelands is taken up through activities like soil and moisture conservation, afforestation natural regeneration, horticulture, agro-forestry, etc. The scheme is with 100% Central assistance from Government of India.

Number of Expert Committees under the Ministry of Agriculture

2729. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Expert Committees and Task Forces are presently operating under his Ministry;

(b) the details of date of formation of such bodies and the concerned subjects; and

(c) what is the basic obstacle in appointing such a Task Force or Expert Committee to study the economic problems related to tobacco and its potential for growth, with particular relevance to farmers and their expectations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) At